

darkness; by calling upon the best of America, the great character of the American citizens, the understanding that when one of us suffers, all of us suffers, that we can change this country one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

You saw the great spirit of America recently in Pennsylvania. When their miners were trapped, people prayed for their deliverance. Americans spent hours trying to figure out how best to save those miners, came up with a plan, successfully got each and every one of them out. I want to thank God for the prayers of the American people for helping them, and thank God for their savior—their saving. That's the kind of country we live in. It's a country fundamentally strong and great.

I believe out of the evil done to America, the culture of our country is changing from one which has said, "If it feels good, go ahead and do it," to—"If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture which says, "Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life."

You see, there's an understanding after September the 11th, after the evil people hit us, that serving something greater than yourself is a part of being a patriotic American. That came home most clearly to me, most vividly to me, when I heard the story of Flight 93, where average Americans

were flying across the land. They found out their plane was going to be a weapon. They told their loved ones they loved them. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life. That example will shine brightly for a lot of Americans, including me, that in order to be an American, in order to understand and help people realize the full potential of our country, it's important to serve something greater than yourself. Now, out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good, because this is such a good and compassionate and decent country.

Thank you all for coming to help Mark. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:30 p.m. at the North Charleston Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Iris Campbell, wife of former Gov. Carroll Campbell of South Carolina; Ann Edwards, wife of former Gov. Jim Edwards of South Carolina; David H. Wilkins, speaker, South Carolina House of Representatives, and his wife, Margaret Susan Wilkins; Gov. Jim Hodges of South Carolina; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines.

## **Statement on Proposed Legislation To Implement the Clear Skies Initiative** *July 29, 2002*

Today I am pleased to announce that Environmental Protection Administrator Whitman has submitted legislation to Congress to implement the Clear Skies Initiative I proposed in February. Since February, my administration has been working to develop legislation that meets our common commitment to cleaner air for all Americans. I also am pleased that Chairman Billy Tauzin and Chairman Joe Barton

introduced this legislation in the House on Friday and that Senator Bob Smith will introduce it in the Senate today on behalf of the administration. Clear Skies will cut powerplant emissions by 70 percent—much further, faster, more certainly, and more cost-effectively than current law.

America has made significant progress over the last 30 years in our quest for cleaner air, and we have learned a lot about

what approaches work best. Now is the time to put those lessons to use. Building upon the success of our most effective clean air program, we have crafted a new "Clean Air Act" for the 21st century, one that will do more to clean up emissions from powerplants than ever before. In the next decade alone, Clear Skies will eliminate 35 million more tons of pollution than the current Clean Air Act, bringing cleaner air to millions of Americans. Clear Skies

will also help save our forests, lakes, streams, and coastal waters from acid rain and nitrogen and mercury deposition. And Clear Skies will do this through the use of a market-based system that guarantees results while keeping electricity prices affordable for the American people. Administrator Whitman and I look forward to working with Congress to deliver the health and environmental benefits promised by passage of Clear Skies legislation.

## Remarks on Signing the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 *July 30, 2002*

Thank you very much. Welcome to the White House, and welcome to this historic occasion.

During the past year, the American economy has faced several sudden challenges and proven its great resiliency. Terrorists attacked a center and symbol of our prosperity. A recession cost many American workers their jobs, and now corporate corruption has struck at investor confidence, offending the conscience of our Nation. Yet, in the aftermath of September the 11th, we refuse to allow fear to undermine our economy, and we will not allow fraud to undermine it either.

With well-timed tax cuts, we fought our way out of recession and back to economic growth. And now with a tough new law, we will act against those who have shaken confidence in our markets, using the full authority of Government to expose corruption, punish wrongdoers, and defend the rights and interests of American workers and investors.

My administration pressed for greater corporate integrity. A united Congress has written it into law. And today I sign the most far-reaching reforms of American business practices since the time of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. This new law sends very clear messages that all concerned must

heed. This law says to every dishonest corporate leader: "You will be exposed and punished. The era of low standards and false profits is over. No boardroom in America is above or beyond the law."

This law says to honest corporate leaders: "Your integrity will be recognized and rewarded, because the shadow of suspicion will be lifted from good companies that respect the rules."

This law says to corporate accountants: "The high standards of your profession will be enforced without exception. The auditors will be audited. The accountants will be held to account."

This law says to shareholders that "the financial information you receive from a company will be true and reliable, for those who deliberately sign their names to deception will be punished."

This law says to workers: "We will not tolerate reckless practices that artificially drive up stock prices and eventually destroy the companies and the pensions and your jobs."

And this law says to every American: "There will not be a different ethical standard for corporate America than the standard that applies to everyone else. The honesty you expect in your small businesses or in your workplaces, in your community